

# Educating Medical Students – ‘Playing the Game’

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## Introduction

In Wales, a Transfusion Practitioner (TP) led practical half-day transfusion education programme is delivered as part of medical student ‘Senior Student Assistsmanship’ (SSA) to 5<sup>th</sup> year medical students. The aim of the programme is to provide interactive scenarios to explore the practical application of their theoretical transfusion knowledge in a small group setting.

The programme has been running for 10 years and following delivery user feedback from each cohort forms the focus for annual review and revision of the programme. This feedback, in addition to concerns regarding a lack of understanding of the purpose of the confirmatory group check sample, has resulted in the evolution of a laboratory based scenario immersive board game designed specifically to enhance understanding of the interaction between the laboratory and clinical areas.

## Method

The new interactive game called ‘Transfusion – Play Your Cards Right’ has been developed by clinicians, TPs and transfusion laboratory staff.

It places the medical students in the role of transfusion laboratory staff allowing them to experience the process from the other side.

Participants are provided with a ‘patient’ and their sample for pre-transfusion testing. The aim is to correctly ‘process’ the sample and provide compatible blood for the patient by moving through a series of events and issues safely. Travel through the game is supported by laboratory information cards which determine how participants progress (Fig. 1).

Each patient will follow a different pathway (Fig. 2) based on the information given on their cards and this allows the facilitator to explain different aspects of the laboratory function and how this impacts clinically. Learning is focused on promoting effective communication skills, adherence to quality principles and patient safety with particular emphasis on the confirmatory sample rule and Wrong Blood In Tube (WBIT).

In addition to playing the game a number of educational resources are also provided to further emphasise the concepts of confirmatory sample taking & WBIT.



Fig. 1

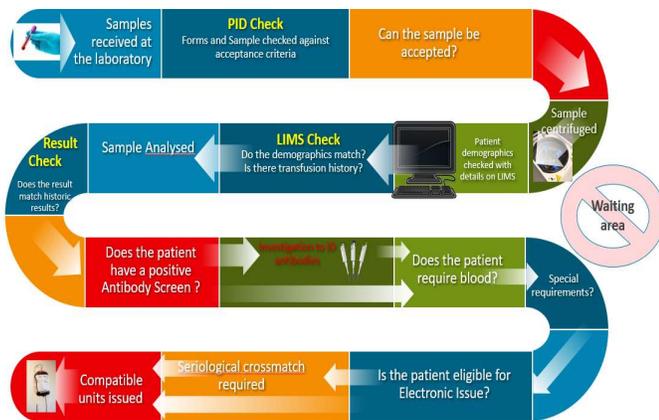
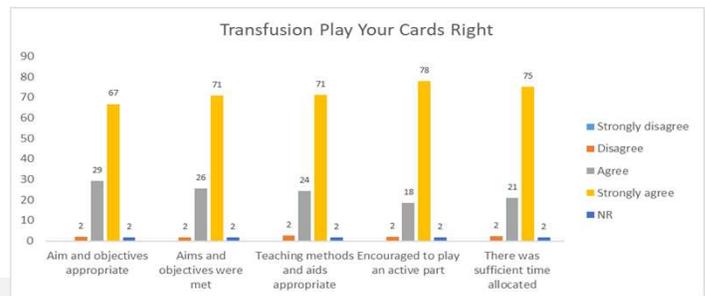


Fig. 2

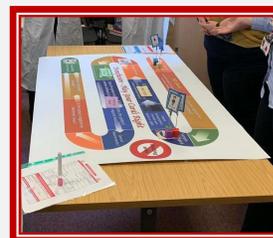
## Results

Introduced for SSA this year the game has already been played by over 300 students in five health boards across Wales. Evaluation data collected on completion of the session is positive and described the game as a fully interactive learning experience (Fig. 3). Feedback has confirmed that it has helped students to understand potentially complex laboratory requirements such as the confirmatory sample rule and sample validity times.

Fig. 3



## Student Comments



Example of game being played

I WILL NEVER TAKE 2 SAMPLES AT THE SAME TIME

Really good training on a topic we have never really covered before. Feel prepared to deal with blood transfusions as an F1 now

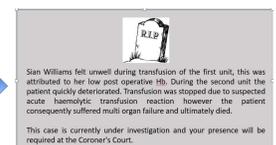
## Conclusion

‘Transfusion - Play Your Cards Right’ has provided students with an alternative learning strategy, which is fully interactive. Providing a platform to gain insight into the laboratory perspective of transfusion sample management is an important component in improving communication between clinicians and the laboratory area and aims to improve the understanding of the importance of sample quality and safety requirements. The introduction of a ‘twist’ at the end of the game reinforces the confirmatory sample rule and WBIT by providing a dramatic point in the learning experience as described below:



One of the patients will ultimately receive the correct blood and the participants will be given the following information

One of the patients will ultimately receive incorrect blood due to two samples taken at the same time causing a WBIT and the participants will be given the following information



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Gwasanaeth Gwaed Cymru  
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